GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7604
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
DEGRADATION OF FORESTS IN ORISSA
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing degradation of forests in Orissa;

(a) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for the proper conservation and development of forests in Orissa and other States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b) : There is no information with Government of India regarding degradation of forests in Orissa. However as per State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, a decrease of 166 sq.km. of forest cover has been reported as compared to 1995 assessment.

(c) Major steps being taken by the Government for the conservation and development of forests are as under:

1. Afforestation programme are being undertaken.

2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests through Joint Forest Management.

3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.

4. A centrally sponsored scheme `Modern Forest Fire ControlMethods` is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.

5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.